

PRELIMINARY NOTE ON A *BALANOGLOSSUS* FROM  
THE COAST OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

BY JAS. P. HILL, F.L.S., DEMONSTRATOR OF BIOLOGY, SYDNEY  
UNIVERSITY.

During a recent collecting trip to Broken Bay I had the good fortune to find the first examples of *Balanoglossus* recorded from Australia. The first specimen found was picked up, by a boy I had with me, adhering to the underside of a large stone on the ocean beach opposite Creel Bay, Barranjoey. Subsequent search revealed its presence in considerable abundance. More recently, during a dredging expedition organised by Professor Haswell to Jervis Bay, I found a single specimen, similar to those from Barranjoey, adhering to the underside of a stone; and systematic search will no doubt reveal its existence at many other points on the coast.

The normal habitat of the animal is in loose gravelly sand, especially in the loose sand under large stones, between high and low water marks. It secretes abundant mucus, to which sand particles adhere, thus forming a sort of tube. The anterior part of the animal is in some of a bright orange colour, the posterior part being colourless, while others are colourless throughout; this difference in colour probably indicates a sexual difference. None of the odours so characteristic of some other species of *Balanoglossus* were detected.

The largest specimen found measured, when only moderately extended, over 7 inches and over an inch in circumference. When fully extended it would measure considerably over a foot; but the majority of the individuals were much smaller.

In a future paper I hope to lay before you the results of a microscopic examination of this form, which is in all probability a new species.